

(Transcribed 11/17/76)

Oklahoma, November 16, 1976 - Q&A (first question)

Repeated by DCI:

Was the CIA aware of the memo on Lee Harvey Oswald and, if so, why was nothing done?

Now, will you tell them what the memo is.

The one that allegedly turned up in the Justice Department files.

Right.

The answer is no. CIA was not aware of such a memo. It is my information that such a memo did not exist. But maybe there is other information on it, for somebody printed that story. Now, let me ask you something. Let me just ask you a favor. Actually, there is no reason if it is in the Justice Department files the CIA would know of such a memo. So we didn't know about the memo. But watch the papers. See if it turns out that there really is such a memo. Then remember if I'm right, that there isn't and it doesn't say there's no piece of paper that says this, then just ask yourself the question, how come the country has heard in these papers for days the fact that there was such a memo and that it was known it was withheld from the Warren Commission. I'm answering affirmative. We didn't know about any such memo. I'm telling you I don't think that such a memo exists. I don't know it. But I don't think it exists. And then I'm also saying that if it doesn't exist, please

bear in mind that every allegation that you read in the paper is not necessarily true. With all due respect to your profession because I happen to believe in, not only in freedom of the press, but in the need to be responsive to it. But this one, I was told that there isn't such a memo. It will be interesting to see if it develops that way. But the CIA had no knowledge of it and wouldn't if it's in the Justice Department files.